(c) whether Government have any contemplation for issuing free rail tickets to the National sports participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) The total amount of funds allotted during the Ninth Five Year Plan for development of sports is Rs. 472.61 Crores.

(b) Under the existing scheme of "Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" Government gives grants for sports infrastructure to various States/UTs including Manipur on receipt of viable proposals for development of sports infrastructure. In this regard, the State of Manipur has been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 67 lakhs during the last four years for development of sports infrastructure.

(c) No, Sir.

Pak Cricket Board threats not to play against India

2889. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3939, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th April, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the threats given by the Pakistani Cricket Board Chairman that his country would not play against India in any tournament anywhere in the world, if India did not play triangular Sharjah series; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) and (b) After consideration all aspects, the Government has taken a decision that under the prevailing circumstances it would be inappropriate for Indian Cricket team to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Govenment has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues.